

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04

USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00

ACDA-07 PA-01 PRS-01 /113 W
----- 093057

R 231523Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6315

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 11304

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EIND ENRG EG LE

SUBJ: CLOSURE OF MOBIL OPERATIONS IN LEBANON

1. FOLLOWING SUBMITTED ON OFF CHANCE DEPT MAY NOT ALREADY
HAVE RECEIVED THIS INFORMATION.

2. DONALD SPIELMAN, GENERAL MANAGER OF MOBIL/EGYPT,
TELEPHONED AMBASSADOR TODAY TO ADVISE THAT MOBIL IS
TERMINATING ITS OPERATIONS IN LEBANON ON A PERMANENT
BASIS. ALL MOBIL INSTALLATIONS THERE WILL CLOSE AS OF
AUGUST 31 AND EMPLOYEES WILL BE TERMINATED.

3. ACCORDING TO SPEILMANN, MOBIL MANAGEMENT HAS DEBATED
SUBJECT FOR SOME TIME. IT HAS FINALLY CONCLUDED THAT ITS
OPERATIONS SHOULD TERMINATE BECAUSE (A) OF DE FACTO PARTI-
TION THAT CURRENTLY OBTAINS, (B) FOR SIXTEEN MONTHS NOW
MOBIL'S PETROLEUM STOCKS HAVE BEEN TAKEN AND NOT PAID FOR,
(C) CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE THAT HAS BEEN DONE TO SIDON REFINERY
IN WHICH MOBIL HAS 50 PERCENT INTEREST AND (D) LOSSES
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OCCASIONED BY SEQUESTRATION OF MOBIL PROPERTIES AND

EQUIPMENT BY WARRING FACTIONS.

4. SPIELMANN ADVISES THAT MOBIL'S AREA-WIDE OPERATIONS
PREVIOUSLY HANDLED FROM LEBANON WILL AS OF SEPTEMBER 1
BE HANDLED OUT OF CAIRO. HE UNDERSTANDS THT EXXON
IS CONTEMPLATING SIMILAR CLOSURE AND THAT OTHER
PETROLEUM FIRMS STILL IN LEBANON MAY ALSO SHUT DOWN
OPERATIONS.
EILTS

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